

I support media diversity

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. I strongly believe that the FCC should retain all of the current media ownership rules now in question. In fact, strengthening of those rules to permit more diverse, independent media is what should happen - not relaxing the rules to squelch independent voices. These rules are supposed to serve the public interest by limiting the market power of already huge companies in the broadcast industry.

I do not believe that the studies commissioned by the FCC accurately demonstrate the negative affects media deregulation and consolidation have had on media diversity. While there may be indeed be more sources of media than ever before, the views presented have become more uniform. Relaxing the exisiting rules have had the opposite effect of the professed intent - witness the example of Clear Channel, which has identical programming wherever they broadcast. Remind you of Muzak? or Communist China?

The right to carry on informed debate and discussion of current events is part of the founding philosophy of our nation. There can be no informed debate is the flow of information is controlled by a few. If the FCC allows our media outlets to merge, our ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints will be all but eliminated.

The public interest will best be served by preserving - or strengthening - media ownership rules in question in this proceeding.

In addition to the official hearing on this matter in Richmond, VA, I strongly urge the FCC to hold additional hearings throughout the nation. Clearly the FCC is trying to get away with something. It's far more important for the FCC to consider the points of view of the public than those who are trying to manipulate or control the flow of information to their own financial benefit.

Finally, doesn't it say something about the problem of media concentration that the major media outlets in the United States have neglected to inform Americans of the FCC's plan to roll back industry regulations?

Sincerely,
Margaret Nalley

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is incumbent on the Commission to take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in the process.

Thank you,

Margaret Nalley